

By Senator Lawson

3-1169A-02

See HB

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to education and training opportunities for state employees; amending s. 110.1099, F.S.; authorizing certain state employees to enroll in tuition-free courses on a space-available basis; providing for appropriation of funds to reimburse education institutions for administrative costs; providing duties of the Auditor General and the State Comptroller; clarifying language and deleting obsolete provisions; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, space-available tuition waivers have been offered to Florida's state employees as an important benefit to allow productive employees an opportunity to enhance their education, and

WHEREAS, valued and valuable employees, and potential employees, have always considered space-available tuition waivers to be of tremendous benefit, and

WHEREAS, one of the most effective methods for accomplishing tasks more efficiently is to provide access to education and training, and

WHEREAS, with fewer employees handling more tasks, education and training provide avenues to meet these challenges, enhance performance, and reward outstanding productivity, and

WHEREAS, the results of this benefit will be a more educated, well-rounded, productive, driven, appreciative, and efficient workforce, NOW, THEREFORE,

1 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

2  
3 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 110.1099, Florida  
4 Statutes, is amended to read:

5 110.1099 Education and training opportunities for  
6 state employees.--

7 (1)(a) Education and training are an integral  
8 component in improving the delivery of services to the public.  
9 Recognizing that the application of productivity-enhancing  
10 technology and practice demands continuous educational and  
11 training opportunities, a state employee may be authorized to  
12 receive a voucher or grant, for matriculation fees, to attend  
13 work-related courses at public community colleges, public  
14 technical centers, or public universities. ~~Student credit~~  
15 ~~hours generated by state employee fee waivers shall be~~  
16 ~~fundable credit hours.~~The department may implement the  
17 provisions of this paragraph ~~section~~ from funds appropriated  
18 to the department for this purpose. In the event insufficient  
19 funds are appropriated to the department, each state agency  
20 may supplement these funds to support the training and  
21 education needs of its employees from funds appropriated to  
22 the agency.

23 (b)1. As a benefit to employers and employees of the  
24 state, subject to approval of an employee's agency head, a  
25 non-State-University-System state employee who meets academic  
26 requirements may enroll for up to 6 credit hours of  
27 tuition-free courses per term on a space-available basis at a  
28 public community college or public university. From funds  
29 appropriated by the Legislature for implementation of this  
30 paragraph, public community colleges and public universities  
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1 shall be reimbursed for administrative costs on a pro rata  
2 basis according to the Auditor General's cost assessment.

3 2. The State Comptroller, in cooperation with the  
4 Florida Community College System and the State University  
5 System, shall identify and implement ways to ease the  
6 administrative burden to public community colleges and public  
7 universities, including, but not limited to, providing easier  
8 access to verify state employment.

9 3. The Auditor General shall provide a true cost  
10 accounting for administrative expenses in conjunction with  
11 annual audit responsibilities for public community colleges  
12 and public universities.

13 ~~(b) For the 2001-2002 fiscal year only and~~  
14 ~~notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), state~~  
15 ~~employees may not be authorized to receive fundable tuition~~  
16 ~~waivers on a space-available basis. This paragraph expires~~  
17 ~~July 1, 2002.~~

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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20 HOUSE SUMMARY

21 Authorizes non-State-University-System state employees to  
22 enroll for up to 6 credit hours of tuition-free courses  
23 per term on a space-available basis at public community  
24 colleges and public universities. Provides for  
25 appropriation of funds to reimburse education  
26 institutions for administrative costs. Provides duties of  
27 the Auditor General and the State Comptroller.